



AU9459341

(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-59341/94
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (10) Acceptance No. 654800

(Australian Petty Patent)

(54) Title
STORABLE CLOTHES LINE ASSEMBLY

International Patent Classification(s)
(51)⁵ D06F 057/12 A47B 049/00 A47G 025/00

(21) Application No. : 59341/94 (22) Application Date : 08.04.94

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number (32) Date (33) Country
PL8197 08.04.93 AU AUSTRALIA

(43) Publication Date : 17.11.94

(45) Publication Date of Granted Application : 17.11.94

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(56) Prior Art Documents
AU 61195/90 A47B A47G

(57) Claim

1. A clothes line assembly comprising clothes hanging means including a plurality of clothes hanging elements, and spaced apart element supporting means, said elements extending between said supporting means and being supported thereby, means for mounting said hanging means to a support for pivotal movement about a substantially vertical axis adjacent one end of said hanging means so that said hanging means may be pivotally moved between an inoperative stored position, and an operative position extending outwardly from said support, said hanging means being further mounted for movement about a substantially horizontal axis whereby said hanging means may be pivoted between a generally horizontal attitude for use and a substantially vertical attitude for storage in said inoperative position.

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C O M P L E T E S P E C I F I C A T I O N
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Details of Associated Provisional Applications: No: PL 8197

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me:-

This invention relates to an improved clothes line assembly and in particular to a clothes line assembly which may be moved between an operative position extending outwardly from a wall or other support and an inoperative position adjacent the wall or other support.

Clothes lines assemblies of many different designs and styles are currently known. The most common clothes line assembly is the rotary clothes hoist which can generally only be used in situations where a large area of ground is available. For smaller spaces, such as in flats or units, different designs of clothes line assembly have been proposed. In one arrangement clothes lines are supported on a spring loaded rotary spool within a housing and may be withdrawn from the housing and supported to a hook remote from the housing when required to be used. In other collapsible clothes line assemblies a rectangular frame carrying a number of lines is pivotally supported to a wall so as to be movable about a horizontal axis between an erected position extending outwardly from the wall and a folded position to lie adjacent to the wall. Whilst the above types of clothes line assemblies have advantages in certain locations, they are not appropriate to use in all situations. They are particularly not appropriate to use in situations where a relatively limited space is available.

The present invention aims to overcome or alleviate the above disadvantages by providing an improved clothes line assembly and in particular a clothes line assembly which may be moved between an operative position extending outwardly from a wall or other support surface and an inoperative position adjacent the wall or support. The present invention further aims to provide a clothes line assembly which is of relatively simple and inexpensive construction. Other objects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following description.

The present invention thus provides a clothes line assembly comprising clothes hanging means including a

plurality of clothes hanging elements, and spaced apart element supporting means, said elements extending between said supporting means and being supported thereby, means for mounting said hanging means to a support for pivotal
 5 movement about a substantially vertical axis adjacent one end of said hanging means so that said hanging means may be pivotally moved between an inoperative stored position, and an operative position extending outwardly from said support, said hanging means being further mounted for
 10 movement about a substantially horizontal axis whereby said hanging means may be pivoted between a generally horizontal attitude for use and a substantially vertical attitude for storage in said inoperative position.

Preferably the hanging means includes a pair of
 15 spaced apart members between which the clothes hanging elements extend, the members being fixedly mounted to a generally horizontal elongated arm to extend generally normal thereto, the arm being supported so as to be rotatable about its longitudinal axis to move the hanging
 20 means between its generally horizontal and vertical attitudes. The arm preferably is mountable at one end to a generally vertical or upright member or post which is pivotally mountable to the support for movement about a vertical axis so as to allow swinging movement of the arm
 25 about the vertical axis between its stored position and its position extending outwardly of the support. Preferably the arm extends in substantially cantilever fashion from the vertical support member or post and bracing means may be provided to support the arm in its horizontal attitude
 30 to the vertical member or post. If desired the bracing means and horizontal arm may be detached from the vertical support member so that the hanging means supporting the clothes hanging elements may be removed for storage.

Mounting brackets are preferably provided at each
 35 end of the vertical support member or post which may be secured to the support which may be a wall, column or other upright surface so that the brackets support the vertical member or post for movement about its vertical axis.



Selectively actuatable locking means may be provided to lock the vertical member or post and thus the arm in a desired rotational position. The locking means may be associated with one or both of the brackets and may be actuated to
 5 clamp the vertical member or post in a desired rotational position.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood and put into practical effect, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings which illustrate a
 10 preferred embodiment of the invention and wherein:-

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a clothes line assembly according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 illustrates the assembly of Fig. 1 in an inoperative stored attitude; and

15 Fig. 3 is an end view of the assembly of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings and firstly to Fig. 1 there is illustrated a clothes line assembly 10 according to the present invention, including an elongated support post 11 which is normally disposed in a vertical attitude
 20 and which for this purpose is supported by upper and lower mounting brackets 12 and 13, each of which includes a hollow socket portion or sleeve 14 and 15 for receipt of opposite ends of the member 11 respectively. The brackets 12 and 13 additionally include flanges 16 and 17 which
 25 allow for mounting of the brackets 12 and 13 to a wall or other vertical surface such as a post or a pillar by means of mounting bolts 18 and 19 passed through the respective flanges 17 and 18. the lower sleeve 15 preferably is split and provided with a clamping lever 20 which when rotated
 30 may close the split sleeve 15 about the lower end of the member 11 to clamp the member 11 in a fixed rotational position. for this purpose the lever 20 is threadably engaged with one of a pair of lugs 21 and serves to draw the lugs 21 together and close the sleeve 15 upon rotation
 35 of the lever 20. As an alternative to this clamping arrangement, the socket 15 may be provided with an aperture or a series of circumferentially spaced apertures and the end of the post 11 within the socket 15 within the socket



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15 provided with an aperture which may be aligned with a selected aperture in the socket 15 to receive a pin

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therethrough to set the rotational position of the post 11. Alternatively, a series of apertures may be provided in the end of the post 11 and the socket 15 provided with a single aperture through which a pin may be passed into a selected
 5 aperture in the post 11.

Extending generally radially outwardly from the member 11 intermediate its ends is a hollow tubular socket 22 for receiving an end of a normally horizontal arm 23. Fixed to the arm 23 at spaced apart positions and extending
 10 transversely of and preferably normal to the arm 22 are a pair of line support members 24 between which a clothes line 25 is supported or strung in a number of strands or elements which in this embodiment extend generally parallel to the arm 23. The line 25 may be any conventional
 15 clothes line material such as wire, plastic coated wire or rope and may comprise a continuous line which is passes through apertures in the opposite members 24 or alternatively may comprise a plurality of separate lines. In a further form, the clothes lines 25 may comprise rigid
 20 elements such as steel rods. The assembly of arm 23 and members 24 is thus supported in a cantilever-like fashion from the socket 22 and is rotatable about a generally horizontal axis within the socket 22. The socket 22 may be provided with an aperture 26 for accepting a locking pin 27
 25 which may be passed into an aperture (not shown) in the end of the arm 23 within the socket 22 so as to lock the arm 23 in a desired rotational position.

A brace assembly 28 is provided for supporting the arm 23 and associated members 24, the brace assembly 28 including a sleeve 29 which is located freely about the arm
 30 23 so as to permit rotation of the arm 23 relative to the sleeve 29, the sleeve 29 including an upstanding lug 30. Pivotally mounted to the lug 30 by means of a bolt 31 is an elongated bracing member 32 which includes a slot 33 at its
 35 end opposite the bolt 31. The member 11 includes adjacent the bracket 12, a bolt 34 over which the slot 33 of the bracing member 32 may be located to thereby brace and support the arm 23.

The brackets 12 and 13 may be mounted to any suitable support such as a wall 35 and in use as shown in Fig. 1, the arm 23 with post 11 may be pivoted to a position wherein the arm 23 extends outwardly from the wall 35 usually at right angles to the wall 35 whilst the members 24 are disposed in a generally horizontal attitude so that the line elements 25 lie in a substantially horizontal plane. The vertical support 11 may be locked in this position by means of the clamping lever 20. The slot 33 of the brace 32 is engaged over the headed bolt 34 to provide support to the arm 22. Clothes or other articles may then be hung from the line elements 25 for drying or other purposes.

When it is desired to move the line assembly 10 to an inoperative stored attitude, the clamping lever 20 is released and the pin 27 withdrawn. The arm 23 may then be pivoted or rotated through ninety degrees so that the members 24 are disposed in a substantially vertical attitude. The arm 23 may then be pivoted or swung with the post 11 about the vertical axis of the post 11 to a stored position to lie flat against the wall 35 as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. It will be seen that in this position, the assembly 10 does not project outwardly from the wall a substantial extent so that the assembly in this position does not comprise a dangerous protrusion. If desired, the brace assembly 28 may be detached from the post 11 and the assembly of arm 23 and members 24 with associated lines 25 may be detached from the socket 22 to be removed say for storage purposes.

The clothes line assembly 11 is mounted so as to be swingable to any desired position. Thus the line assembly where for example mounted on a covered patio, pillar, post or wall may be loaded in an undercover position and rotated outwardly and locked in position for drying purposes or in the event say of wet weather, the assembly may be pivoted to an sheltered position under cover for drying purposes.

The clothes line assembly 10 may be constructed in many different configurations. For example the vertical

member 11 may be supported at each end in spigot-like pins or gudgeons so as to be supported to a wall or the like for vertical rotation. Additionally, the socket 22 may be replaced by a spigot which extends into the end of the horizontal arm 23 to provide for support of same and rotation thereof about a generally horizontal axis. In the embodiment illustrated the clothes line elements 25 are made to extend between spaced members 24. This configuration, however, may be considerably varied. For example further arms may be provided to be supported by the members 24 and extend generally parallel to the arm 23. In this configuration the clothes lines 25 may extend transversely of the arm 23 to be supported by the spaced further arms. Alternatively, the members 24 and lines 25 may be replaced by a rigid frame assembly.

To facilitate rotational movement of the vertical arm 11 and/or horizontal arm 23 bearings may be provided between the respective arms and their associated supports.

The components of the clothes line assembly 10 are preferably formed of a metal, such as steel or aluminium, however, the components may also be formed of plastics. Whilst the main support components are shown to be of circular cross-section they may also be constructed to be of square or other cross section.

Whilst the above has been given by way of illustrative embodiment of the invention, all such modifications and variations thereto as would be apparent to persons skilled in the art are deemed to fall within the broad scope and ambit of the invention as herein defined in the appended claims.

The Claims defining the invention are as follows:-

1. A clothes line assembly comprising clothes hanging means including a plurality of clothes hanging elements, and spaced apart element supporting means, said
5 elements extending between said supporting means and being supported thereby, means for mounting said hanging means to a support for pivotal movement about a substantially vertical axis adjacent one end of said hanging means so that said hanging means may be pivotally moved between an
10 inoperative stored position, and an operative position extending outwardly from said support, said hanging means being further mounted for movement about a substantially horizontal axis whereby said hanging means may be pivoted between a generally horizontal attitude for use and a
15 substantially vertical attitude for storage in said inoperative position.

2. A clothes line assembly according to Claim 1 and including an upright post, means for mounting said post to
20 said support for movement about said vertical axis and means for mounting said hanging means to said post for movement about said substantially horizontal axis.

3. A clothes line assembly according to Claim 1 or
25 Claim 2 wherein said hanging means is supported by a generally horizontal arm, said horizontal arm being mountable to said upright post for rotational movement about said horizontal axis.

DATED this thirteenth day of September 1994

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RONALD DAVID DELL
BY MY PATENT ATTORNEY

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JOHN R.G. GARDNER



ABSTRACT

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A clothes line assembly (10) including an upright post (11) which may be pivotally mounted to a wall or other support surface (35) for movement about a vertical axis, and an arm (23) which is mounted to the post (11) for rotational movement about a horizontal axis. The arm (23) supports a number of clothes line elements (25) and may be pivoted between position where the elements (25) are disposed in a substantially horizontal operative attitude and a vertical stored attitude where the arm (23) may be pivoted about the vertical axis to a position to lie adjacent the wall (35).
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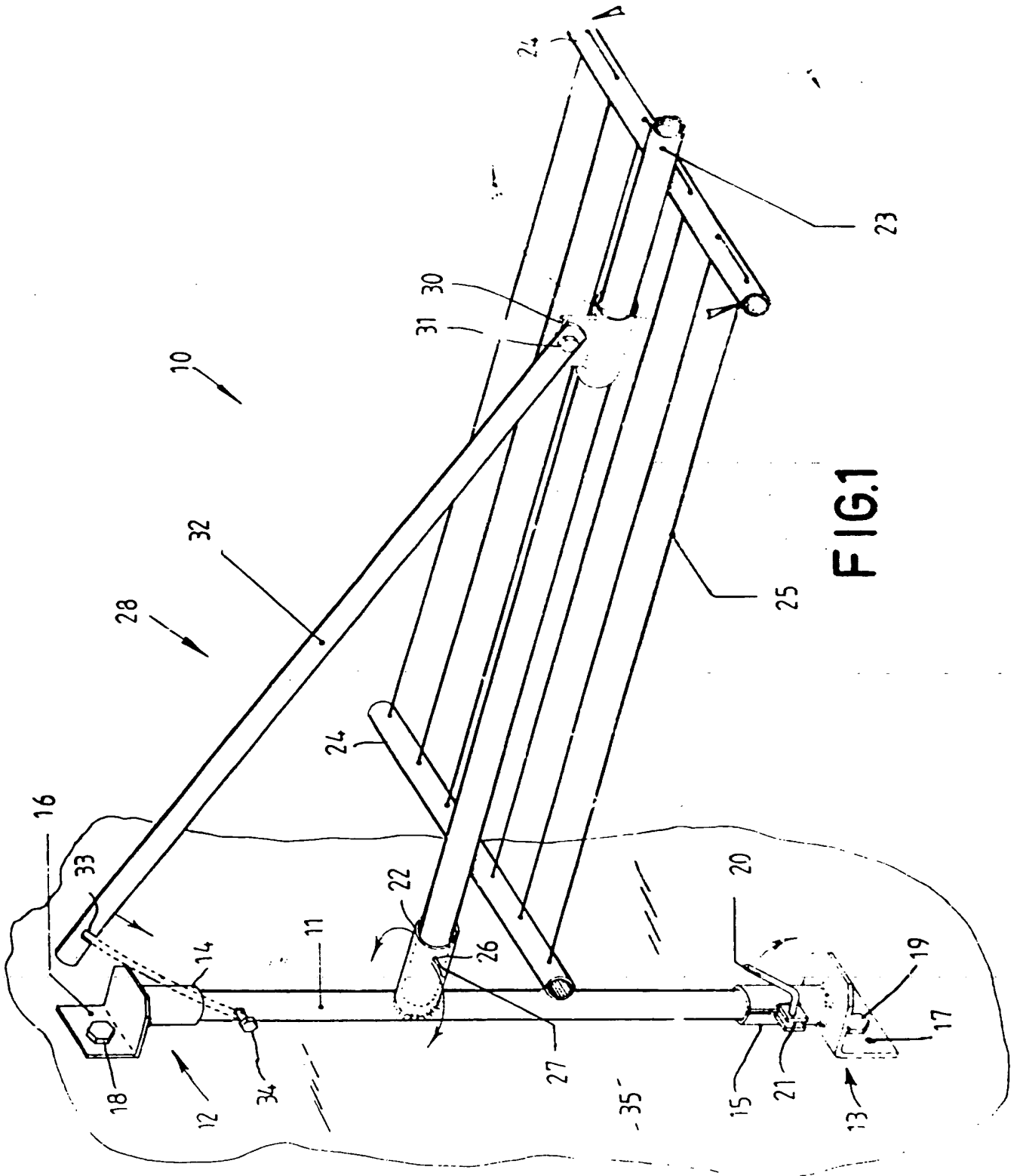


FIG. 1

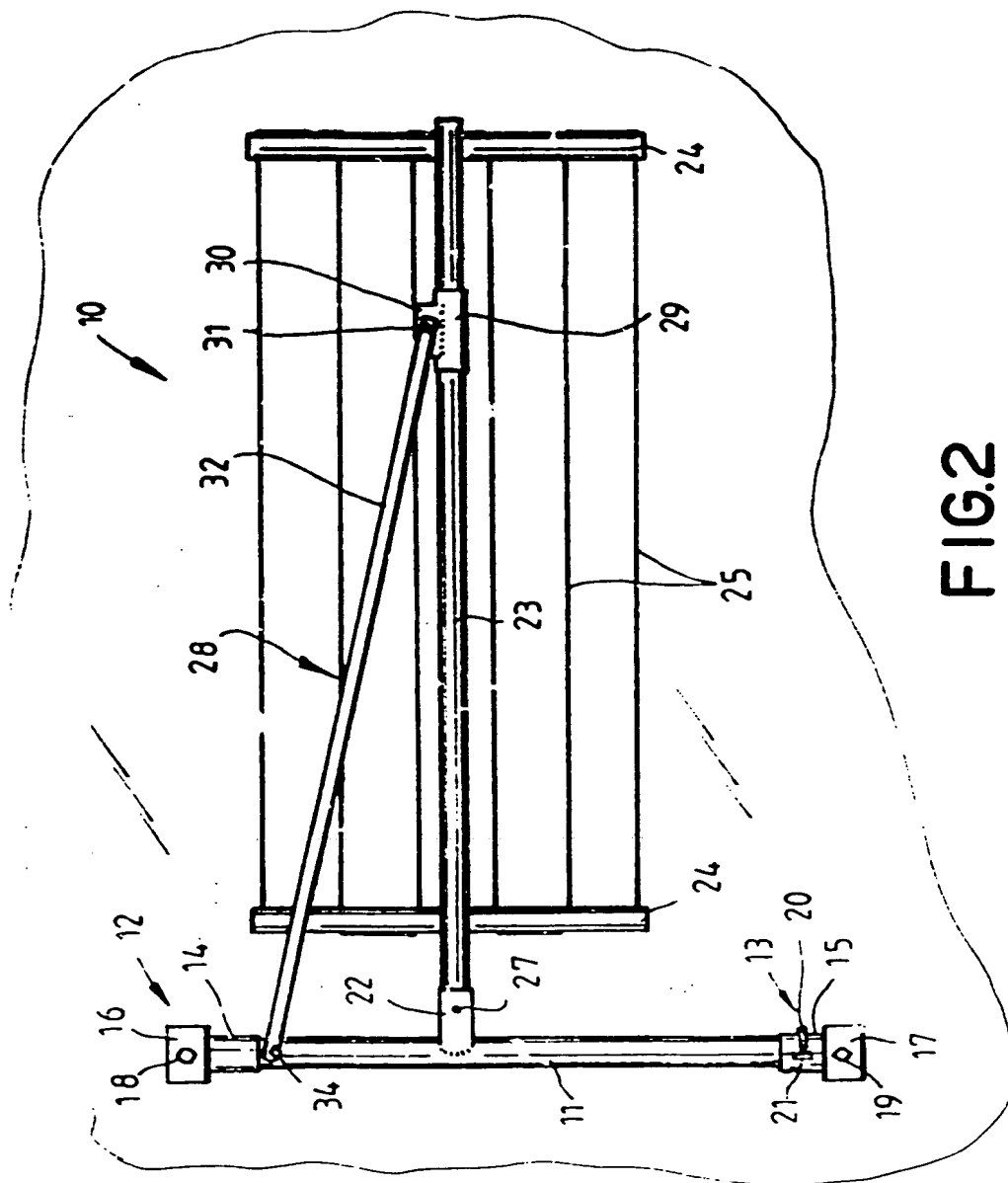


FIG.2

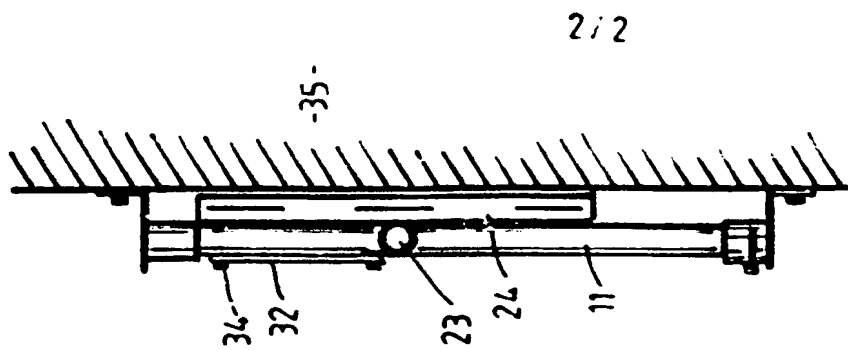


FIG.3

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